

Annual General Meeting 2009

Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries

By kind invitation our AGM will be held in

Hunslet Nazarene Church
Grove Road, Hunslet, LS10 3BN

9th May 2009

AGM: 1:30 - 2.30 pm

Refreshments provided

Report and Celebration Meeting: 4:00 pm

Speakers:

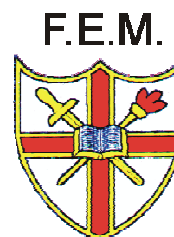
Andrew Nelson (Manchester)

Richard Hardy (Southport)

All members of the Fellowship of
Evangelistic Ministries are invited to the
AGM. Why not bring a friend so that they can
be introduced to the work and ministry of
FEM!

Sounding the Trumpet

April - June 2009



Sounding the Trumpet

A Magazine for Preachers by Preachers

Is Published by The Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries
(Formerly The Evangelical Preachers Association, Est. 1896)

This is a homiletical magazine designed to encourage and assist all who are engaged in the preaching of the pure Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

One of the aims of FEM (as it is affectionately known by its members) is to give preachers instruction in preparation, format and delivery of the message of Saving Grace both inside and outside of church buildings. We trust that this magazine will be both a blessing and assistance to all who proclaim the Good News of sins forgiven and the hope of eternal life through saving faith in the Son of God.

Sounding the Trumpet is published four times a year. If you would like to subscribe to this magazine please locate the subscription form on one of the pages in this magazine.

Articles included in this magazine are chosen for their homiletical content and not for a person's theological persuasion. As the Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries is a conservative evangelical body, no articles by those of a liberal position will knowingly be included in this journal.

As a magazine by preachers for preachers, our aim is to provide Biblically sound articles and outlines.

restless natures can be stilled and the clamor of outside voices be deadened so that we can hear His voice. Such a state is not easily reached, and the men God uses have paid a price in wrestlings and prevailing prayer. But it is such men who rise from their knees confident of His power and go forth to speak with authority and not as the scribes. I saw a human life ablaze with God; I felt a power divine as through an empty vessel of frail clay I saw God's glory shine. Then woke I from a dream, and cried aloud: "My Father, give to me The blessing of a life consumed by God, That I may live for Thee!"

Web Sites

www.femonline.co.uk

<http://coloursofthetrinity.2ya.com>

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The sweetest graces by a slight perversion may bear the bitterest fruit. The sun gives life, but sunstrokes are death. Preaching is to give life; it may kill. The preacher holds the keys; he may lock as well as unlock. Preaching is God's great institution for the planting and maturing of spiritual life. When properly executed, its benefits are untold; when wrongly executed, no evil can exceed its damaging results. It is an easy matter to destroy the flock if the shepherd be unwary or the pasture be destroyed, easy to capture the citadel if the watchmen be asleep or the food and water be poisoned. Invested with such gracious prerogatives, exposed to so great evils, involving so many grave responsibilities, it would be a parody on the shrewdness of the devil and a libel on his character and reputation if he did not bring his master influences to adulterate the preacher and the preaching.



E. M. Bounds

Many still lack the fire!

By Vance Havner



It is true that Pentecost, historically, took place once for all. So did Calvary. But each individual must personally appropriate the blood by faith and so must each believer receive by faith the Spirit for power. The promise of the Spirit is received by faith (Gal. 3: 14). It is an experience of spiritual thirst, then coming to Christ, drinking of the Spirit by faith, believing and overflowing (John 7: 37-39). So the blood and bread must be accompanied by fire. We have fundamentalism and facts; we have activity and earnestness and sincerity; we even have blood-washed and blood-nourished Christians, well-taught in the Word, WHO STILL LACK FIRE. Some are prejudiced against it, identifying any definite experience of the Spirit with fanaticism. Some see nothing but a gradual growth in grace. Some mistake the indwelling of the Spirit for the infilling. Some have "received" with a cheap and easy "believism" who somehow did not receive after all. For many reasons the church is largely behind closed doors as before Pentecost, and believers try to stir up a fire from their own sparks instead of being set on fire of God.

We are not here advocating some wild and weird emotional experience, but we do hold that he who seeks to burn out for God will have to go deeper than sentence prayers and occasional wishful thinking. There must be a holy burning and a consuming longing for the fullness of the Spirit. Tears and fastings and all night prayers have no value of themselves, but God will reward the man who forgets all else seeking the double portion of "power with God and men." It is not that God is stingy and must be coaxed, for He "giveth liberally and upbraideth not." It is that we ourselves are so shallow and sinful that we need to tarry before Him until our

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The longer you live, the more powerful will you find the gospel to be; the more deeply Christ-taught you are, the more you live under the constant influence of the Holy Spirit, the more you will know the gospel to be a thing of power, and the more also will you understand it to be a thing of wisdom. C. H. Spurgeon

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Why are Christians hated?

"Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you" (1 John 3:12-13)

Introduction

It is not very nice, and even the thought of it is unpleasant, to be hated and rejected by those around us. But let us remind ourselves, that no matter how much the world hates us, God loves us much more than we will ever realise on this side of eternity.

Our enemies

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (John 15:19).

It is not always possible to judge a person's character by the company he keeps, but we can do so by who his enemies are. The unsaved world loves its own, but detests all who truly follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

Somehow some Christians are surprised that others hate them. Surely they ought to be loved, honoured and respected for being good citizens, peaceful and charitable! But if the world hated and killed the Master, why should we expect better treatment? **"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you"** (John 15:18). They called Him every evil name under the sun, therefore they will do so to us also. **"It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how**

4. It is that sin above all others that most suits the wisdom of our flesh. . . . And this wisdom unbelief falls in with.

5. It is the sin above all others, that continually is whispering in the ear of the soul, with mistrusts of the faithfulness of God, in keeping promise to them that come to Jesus Christ for life. It also mistrusts about Christ's willingness to receive it, and save it. And no in can do this so artfully as unbelief.

6. It is also that sin which is always at hand to enter an objection against this or that promise, that by the Spirit of God is brought to our heart to comfort us. And if the poor coming sinner is not aware of it, it will by some exaction, slight, trick, or cavil, quickly wrest from him the promise again, and he shall have but little benefit of it.

7. It is that above all other sins, that weakens our prayers, our faith, our love, our diligence, our hope and expectations. It even takes the heart away from God in duty.

8. Lastly, this sin . . . even now, appears in the soul with so many sweet pretences to gather safety and security, that it is, as it were, counsel sent from heaven; bidding the soul be wise, wary, considerate, well advised, and to take heed of too rash a venture upon believing. "Be sure, first, that God loves you; take hold of no promise until you are forced by God unto it; neither be sure of your salvation; doubt it still, though the testimony of the Lord has often been confirmed in you. Live not by faith, but by sense; and when you can neither see nor feel, then fear and mistrust, then doubt and question all." This is the devilish counsel of unbelief, which is so covered over with specious pretences, that the wisest Christian can hardly shake off these reasonings.

Unbelief

by George Muller



What an evil it is that keeps sinners from coming to Jesus Christ? And that evil is unbelief: for by faith we come; by unbelief we keep away. Therefore it is that by which a soul is said to depart from God: because it was that which at first caused the world to go off from Him, and that also, that keeps them from His to this day. . . . This sin may be called the white devil. . . In its mischievous doing in the soul, shows as if it were an angel of light: yea, it acts like a counsellor of heaven. . . .

1. It is that sin, above all others, that has some show of reason in its attempts. For it keeps the soul from Christ, by pretending its present unfitness and unpreparedness: as want of more sense of sin, want of more repentance, want of more humility, want of a more broken heart.

2. It is the sin that most suits with the conscience. The conscience of the coming sinner tells him, that he has nothing good! . . . that he is a very ignorant, blind and hard-hearted sinner, unworthy to be once taken notice of by Jesus Christ; and will you (says unbelief) in such a case as you are now, presume to come to Jesus Christ?

3. It is the sin that most suits with our sense of feeling. The coming sinner feels the workings of sin, of all manner of sin and wretchedness in his flesh; he also feels the wrath and judgment of God due to sin and oftentimes staggers under it. Now, says unbelief, you may see you have no grace; for that which works in you is corruption. You may also perceive that God does not love you, because the sense of His wrath abides upon you. Therefore, how can you bear the face to come to Jesus Christ?

much more shall they call them of his household?" (Matthew 10:25).

Our enemies can be found amongst so-called Christians too. It was the religious leaders who were responsible for the persecution and death of the Saviour. Stephen summed this up well enough at his own trial and death at the hands of those who had hated and rejected Christ. **"Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers"** (Acts 7:52).

The way of the world

Nothing really changes with regards to the persecution of the people of God. It was like this at the very beginning of time when Cain slew his brother Abel. Why did Cain hate his brother so much? Because Abel wanted to faithfully serve and obey the Lord. **"And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bore Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bore his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and**

slew him" (Genesis 4:1-8). This is the whole history of Israel, the world and the false church. **"Thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee"** (Matthew 23:37).

Why do they hate us?

"Who was of the wicked one - Who showed he was a child of the devil by killing his brother. And wherefore slew he him - For any fault? No, but just the reverse; for his goodness" (John Wesley).

The world does not mind if we go by the name Christian, as long as we do not practice what we preach. True Christianity makes people feel very uncomfortable. **"Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you"** (1 Peter 4:4) ... **"For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved"** (John 3:20). They see us as a threat to their impure ways, and our presence is a rebuke to their sin and a reminder of their coming judgement.

Conclusion

There cannot be a true believer alive today, nor has one ever existed, who has not experienced hatred, opposition, rejection and hostility for the cause of Christ. As soon as we make a stand for the Lord, we are going to feel and know the wrath of Satan and those who receive his wages. We can rejoice in the knowledge that we are in good company when we face persecution. **"Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you"** (Matthew 5:12).

Gary J. Hall

unto him,' Art thou also of Galilee? Search and look; for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet." [John 7:52].

This is Jonah's biography and the facts presented by him are scoffed at and many think the whole book is just one big joke. But how many men who writing their biography would write as Jonah did. He informs us with such detail his own defiance of the will of God the creator.

He tells of his own selfishness, rebellion and failure but never blames God but exalts God's great and holy name. He takes four chapters to describe in detail his own downfall but only a few sentences to summarise the greatest event of this book is the repentance of the inhabitants of *"that great city"* of Nineveh. This is the miracle which the sceptics have conveniently missed. The central words in this book are found in Ch. 2 v. 9. ***"Salvation is of the LORD."*** Jonah had to learn this the hard way.

Many people over the years have missed this great work of salvation God bought about through repentance and have concentrated instead on the incidentals of the fish, the gourd, the east wind, the ship and Nineveh.

The important things in this book are Jehovah and Jonah, God and man, repentance and grace. There are some so called Bible teachers who do not accept this book as the truth, but *"Let God be true and every man a liar."* [Rom. 3:4]. God thought it right to include this book in the cannon of Holy Scripture and all who read it must remember God's Word says, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."* [2 Tim. 3:16]

My brethren, it is high time for us to awake out of sleep before the 'great trumpet of the Lord be blown,' and our land become a field of blood. John Wesley

d. The spitting out of Jonah is Israel's return during the time of Ezra.

[2] The MYTHOLOGICAL VIEW.

This is the view of the liberalists. They see this book as they would see Robin Hood, Robinson Crusoe, or Hans Anderson's fables.

[3] The HISTORICAL AND LITERAL VIEW.

a. This is actual history.

b. The church at the start believed it.

c. The Jews believed it.

d. The Lord Jesus Christ himself in Matthew's gospel gave the book of Jonah his seal of authority. For we read, *"For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgement with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here."* [Matt.12:40, 41]

Thus the one who is *"the Way, the Truth and the Life"* believed the facts of this book then that puts it beyond all argument. Those who know Him and have proved that His Word is more dependable than heaven and earth believe it, because He says, *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"*. [Matt.24:35]

e. The writer of the book of 2 Kings tells us that God's *"servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gathhepher."*

So there is no doubt that the prophet Jonah was a actual person and not just a made up individual in a story, because we know his father's name and his home village. His home village was 3 miles North East of Nazareth in Galilee. The Pharisees when speaking to the Lord Jesus obviously had not read the Old Testament for *"They answered and said*



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PTO

Abraham's faith reposed in God Himself. He knew the God he was dealing with. It was a personal confidence in One whom he could utterly trust. The real secret of Abraham's whole life was in his friendship with God. He knew God to be his great, good and faithful Friend. Taking Him at His word, he stepped out from all that he knew and loved and went forth upon an unknown pathway with none but God. In addition to trusting in the Word of God, have we learned to lean our whole weight upon God, the God of infinite love and power, our covenant God and everlasting Friend? We are told that Abraham glorified God by this life of faith. The truest way to glorify God is to let the world see what He is and what He can do. God does not so much want us to do things as to let people see what He can do. God is not looking for extraordinary characters as His instruments, but He is looking for humble instruments through whom He can be honoured throughout the ages.



A. B. Simpson

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Jonah

A commentary series by David Moody

For many years this wonderful book of Jonah has fascinated me and challenged me. God has been gracious to me in that when the Holy Spirit has led me to minister from this book souls have been blessed and encouraged. How many of us would be willing to be so open about our lives as Jonah was. He tells about his calling, his commission, his calculating, and the resulting calamity. Jonah reveals how his disobedience was costly not only to himself but to others. He reports his own captiousness to God even after God had provided a canopy to protect him from the heat. What a wonderful prophet of God he was confessing to others all the details of his cantankerous behaviour and God's great grace and mercy. Oh the great lessons we can learn from his openness recorded for our benefit. My prayer is that God will bless this little booklet to His glory, the building up of His church and the saving of precious souls.

Introduction

Jonah and the book he wrote are the most misunderstood and maligned in the whole of the Bible. People look at this book in three different ways.

[1] The ALLEGORICAL VIEW.

The book is seen as a extra long parable.

- a. Jonah is really depicting the nation of Israel.
- b. Because the sea often typifies the nations. In this instance it is the Gentile nations.
- c. Jonah in the sea creature is the Babylonian captivity of Israel.